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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/577,608	05/25/2000	Eigo Kawakami	862.C1917	6496
5514	7590	10/28/2004		EXAMINER
				CHURCH, CRAIG E
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				2882

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/577,608	KAWAKAMI ET AL
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Craig E. Church	2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 10, 12-20, 22, 24, 25 and 27-31 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 10, 12-20, 22, 24, 25, 27-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Claims 16-20, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. There is no antecedent basis for "said static bearing " in line 5 of claim 16.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-20, 22-25 and 27-31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for substituting nitrogen and helium in an x-ray lithography exposure chamber, does not reasonably provide enablement for any gases in any environment as claimed. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to practice the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. As an example, corrosive gas such as nitrous oxide would easily damage the recited static pressure bearing. The specification (lines 1-10 of page 8) states that the invention is directed to x-ray lithography, and it is recommended that the scope of the claims be so limited.

Claims 1-20, 22-25 and 27-31 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, set forth in this Office action.

Applicant's arguments filed September 10, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The amendments to claims 1 and 9 are superficial, and applicant has made no substantive effort to place this application in condition for allowance.

While being enabling for substituting nitrogen and helium in a static bearing in an x-ray lithography exposure chamber, the disclosure does not reasonably provide enablement for any gases in any environment as claimed. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to practice the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. As an example, corrosive gas such as nitrous oxide would easily damage the recited static pressure bearing. The specification (lines 1-10 of page 8) states that the invention is directed to x-ray lithography, and it is recommended that the scope of the claims be so limited by positively reciting an x-ray source, x-ray optical means for projecting a pattern on a semiconductor wafer and wafer positioning means including a static bearing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Craig E. Church at telephone number (571) 272-2488.



Craig E. Church
Senior Examiner
Art Unit 2882